

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A material guide, comprising:

a guide bush having a material introducing end and a material lead-out end, as axially opposite ends, and including a hollow-tubular material support section elastically displaceable in a radial direction about a guiding axis; and

an adjusting mechanism for adjusting a radial dimension of said material support section of said guide bush;

said adjusting mechanism comprising:

a carrying member carrying said guide bush, and having a front face disposed around said material lead-out end of said guide bush;

a pressing member disposed near said front face of said carrying member and movable relative to said carrying member and able to make a relative linear motion along said guiding axis relative to said guide bush, the pressing member causing an elastic displacement in said radial direction on said material support section by said relative linear motion; and

a feed screw structure causing said relative linear motion between said pressing member and said guide bush by a mutual screwing motion of threads;

wherein said adjusting mechanism further comprises a manipulating member disposed near said front face of said carrying member and mounted on said carrying

member adjacent to said pressing member, said manipulating member being separated from said pressing member, and said manipulating member includes including a manipulation section for manipulating said feed screw structure to cause said screwing motion; and

wherein said feed screw structure is provided between said carrying member and said manipulating member.

8. (Original) A material guide device as set forth in claim 7, wherein said guide bush is secured relative to said carrying member in a direction along said guiding axis.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A material guide device ~~as set forth in claim 4,~~
comprising:

a guide bush having a material introducing end and a material lead-out end, as axially opposite ends, and including a hollow-tubular material support section elastically displaceable in a radial direction about a guiding axis; and

an adjusting mechanism for adjusting a radial dimension of said material support section of said guide bush;

said adjusting mechanism comprising:

a carrying member carrying said guide bush, and having a front face disposed around said material lead-out end of said guide bush;

a pressing member disposed near said front face of said carrying member with at least a portion of the pressing member extending beyond said front face and movable relative to said carrying member and able to make a relative linear motion

along said guiding axis relative to said guide bush, the pressing member causing an elastic displacement in said radial direction on said material support section by said relative linear motion; and

a feed screw structure causing said relative linear motion between said pressing member and said guide bush by a mutual screwing motion of threads,

wherein said feed screw structure is provided between said carrying member and said guide bush.

12. (Currently Amended) A material guide device, comprising:

a guide bush having a material introducing end and a material lead-out end, as axially opposite ends, and including a hollow-tubular material support section elastically displaceable in a radial radial direction about a guiding axis; and

an adjusting mechanism for adjusting a radial dimension of said material support of said guide bush;

said adjusting mechanism comprising:

a carrying member carrying said guide bush, and having a front face disposed around said material lead-out end of said guide bush;

a pressing member disposed near said front face of said carrying member and movable relative to said carrying member and able to make a relative linear motion along said guiding axis relative to said guide bush, the pressing member causing an elastic displacement in said radial direction on said material support section by said relative linear motion; and

a feed screw structure causing said relative linear motion between said pressing member and said guide bush by a mutual screwing motion of threads;

wherein said feed screw structure is provided between said carrying member and said guide bush;

wherein said guide bush is secured relative to said pressing member in a rotational direction about said guiding axis; and

wherein an outer circumferential surface of said pressing member comprises a manipulation section for manipulating said feed screw structure to cause said screwing motion.

13. (Previously Presented) A material guide device as set forth in claim 7, wherein said adjusting mechanism further comprises an anchoring member, disposed near said front face of said carrying member, for inhibiting said screwing motion of said feed screw structure.

14. (Previously Presented) A material guide device as set forth in claim 7, wherein a fitting portion for holding said carrying member and said pressing member in a coaxial arrangement relative to each other is provided between said carrying member and said pressing member; and wherein a fitting portion for holding said carrying member and said guide bush in a coaxial arrangement relative to each other is provided between said carrying member and said guide bush.

15. (Previously Presented) A material guide device as set forth in claim 12, wherein a fitting portion for holding said carrying member and said pressing member in a coaxial arrangement relative to each other is provided between said carrying member and said pressing member; and wherein a fitting portion for holding said carrying member and said guide bush in a coaxial arrangement relative to each other is provided between said carrying member and said guide bush.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) An automatic lathe comprising the material guide device as set forth in claim 7, wherein said material guide device is installed in proximity to a working location of machining of an objective material.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A material guide device as set forth in claim 12, wherein said adjusting mechanism further comprises an anchoring member, disposed near said front face of said carrying member, for inhibiting said screwing motion of said feed screw structure.

21. (Previously Presented) An automatic lathe comprising the material guide device as set forth in claim 12, wherein said material guide device is installed in proximity to a working location of machining of an objective material.